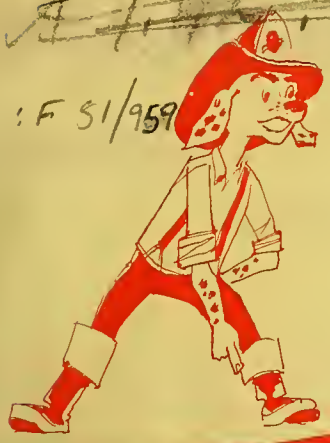
A 1.2:F 51/959



NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 4–10, 1959

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LIBRARIES
OCT

DON'T GIVE FIRE A PLACE TO START!

U.S. DEPOSITORY

Reduce These Farm Fire Losses

Farm fire losses increased by nearly one-fifth since 1950 and by 2½ percent in the past year. Remove the fire hazards on your place before it is too late.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

in cooperation with

THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

STOP THE CAUSES OF F

Fire Losses C

EQUIPMENT THAT WILL HELP SAVE PROPERTY

Fire Prevention

Lightning rods are practically a must in certain parts of the country. Replace rods or wires that are damaged or worn. Be sure ground connections are secure.

Lightning arresters will reduce interior damage to farm homes and their electrical appliances, by preventing surges of electricity during thunderstorms. Connect the arrester on the line side of the meter (outside) to protect the meter, the service wiring, and the appliances on the load side.

Heat lamps for brooders should be kept at least 9 inches above litter. Suspend lamps by a chain, wire, or a bracket, but not by the cord, to prevent lamps from dropping down and setting fire to straw or other bedding.

Fire-resistant partitions. Use self-closing doors controlled by fusible links at partition doorways in your present and future farm buildings. They can slow down a fire between your livestock and your stored hay until the firetruck arrives.

Firefighting

Practical *fire alarm systems* are available. Install detectors at critical places, such as near the furnace and in the attic. Connect the alarm so that it will sound in the bedroom if the heat (at a detector) reaches 140° to 160° Fahrenheit.

Install a *telephone* on your yard pole (a safe distance from any building) and post the telephone number of the local fire department on it. The outside telephone may be your only means of calling the fire department if you have a fire in your home.

Fire extinguishers. Have a dry chemical powder extinguisher for fighting electrical or flammable oil fires, and a 5-gallon pump water extinguisher for fighting trash fires.

Water pump. Attach electrical connection to your yard pole to assure power for the pump in case of fire.

Use your *water pressure system* for firefighting. Have 50 feet of hose and a universal connection handy for use at either the bathtub and sink, or for an outside connection. Many fires start around the kitchen, attic, and basement.

Cisterns for storing water. Many concrete product plants sell 750- to 1,000-gallon precast concrete tanks tha can be assembled into larger tanks. A 3,000-gallon tan centrally located with a suitable manhole opening for suction hose is desirable. *Cisterns* kept exclusively fo firefighting *are sound investments.* In some areas the will also *save insurance premiums,* provided you have telephone and there is firetruck service on call.

Other equipment. Necessary firefighting tools, kep handy and in good order; a sturdy, safe ladder long enough to reach to the roof of your highest building; and well-maintained roads and lanes leading from the high way to your farm and buildings are essential for fire protection.

WHAT AR

Fire Insurance Claim

Damage from fire a
Windstorm damage
Damage from other

Kinds of Losses

A farmers' insurance payments in 1958 of mor made in 1957. Most fre

Defective heating eq
Faulty chimneys and
Defective and overlo
Matches and smokin

From January 1 to Ma 32 losses involving heat l loss. The company said is a total loss (of the broo fire originated)."

FIRE THAT THREATEN YOU

Can Be Reduced

HOME AND FAMILY

The fire-safe home depends on: good construction and good family habits about fire and its dangers.

Good Construction

Built-in fire stops. Barriers of wood or masonry between studs, joists, rafters, or stringers, or built in to present buildings to block off open wall channels, will slow up or prevent the spread of smoke and fire.

Solid doors for every room can keep smoke and fire out for as long as 30 minutes. Closing bedroom doors on winter nights adds to fire safety.

Good escape routes lead directly outside, not through other rooms. Windows should be large enough and low enough to climb through, and be easy for the youngest child to open.

Interior finish. Wallboards made of gypsum, cement, asbestos, and similar materials are noncombustible and resist the spread of flames.

Fire-resistant roofing. Use material, such as asphalt shingles, slate, asbestos, or metal.

Proper wiring. For fire safety require electricians to use the National Electrical Code when wiring new and remodeled homes and farm buildings.

Modern heating plants are often equipped with fire-preventing safety devices. But furnaces should be cleaned and inspected regularly. Do not install your furnace under stairs or near an entrance where fire from it might block escape. Allow adequate clearance from walls and ceilings and ample air for combustion.

Family Training[1]

Plan at least two ways to get out of every room in the house, and *escape routes* for every member of the family. *Train everyone* in their use until even the youngest child understands clearly what to do. *Keep exits clear. Don't jump* from an upper story window—wait for the fireman.

Know the fire department phone number and be sure the firemen know how to reach your farm.

Get out of the house and, if possible, warn everyone else to get out the minute a fire or smoke is discovered. Don't stop to dress the children. Always have a flashlight handy.

Stay near the floor or crawl to avoid rising gases. Hold your breath if you have to make a dash through smoke or flame.

Don't open hot doors. Feel the doors first, and if they're hot, keep them closed and get out another way or wait for help.

Never leave children alone in your home. Instruct your babysitter in your escape plans and see that she knows how to get in touch with the fire department, parents, doctors, and police.

Never go back into a burning building for any reason—even the smallest, most harmless-looking fire can give off deadly smoke and fire gases.

Keep your home free of fire hazards by regular inspections. The fire department can help in this.

[1] For further information, see FB 2101, Watch Your Step.

HE CAUSES?

ow:

htning—81 percent.
percent.
s—2 percent.

pany in Nebraska made loss
n 60 percent over payments
t causes were—

ent.
wiring systems.

25, 1959, this company paid
s, averaging $747 for each
ally a fire from this cause
house or barn in which the

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
3 1262 08851 7098

FIRE HURTS YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR NATION

In the last 10 years, fire has killed more than 100,000 persons, and burned and disfigured many hundred thousands more. Each year over 11,000 people in the United States die—needlessly—in fires, and more than twice that number are severely burned or disfigured for life, National Fire Protection records show.

In 1958 alone there were about 2 million fires in the United States, with a total loss of about 11,500 lives and $1,305 million in property. The challenge of Fire Prevention Week is to reduce this tragic toll. Each community can do its part.

Community Fire Protection. Protection begins with prevention. Rural fire departments are being encouraged to conduct year-round prevention programs in cooperation with organizations and groups serving the rural community. A community fire department, equipped and trained to put out or control fires, is essential for protection. At least 44 States have laws pertaining to rural fire protection districts.

IN CASE OF FIRE

Be prepared for firefighting, but "Don't Give Fire a Place To Start."
Every person living on a farm should know what to do.
The most important steps are:

- 1. Get everyone out of and away from the building on fire.
- 2. Call for help from nearest telephone—or make sure someone goes for help.
- 3. Try to keep the fire from spreading. Protect other buildings, livestock, and property.
- 4. Assist the fire department in getting water and moving equipment as directed.
- 5. Take steps to protect property against weather damage after the fire is out.

Rural telephones, fire extinguishers, farm and home water pressure systems, farm ponds, water cisterns, tank trucks with trained firefighters, are all essential to protect farm families and property from fire.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PUBLICATIONS
Fire Resistant Construction on the Farm. Farmers' Bull. 2070.
Watch Your Step. Farmers' Bull. 2101.
Lightning Protection for the Farm. Farmers' Bull. 2136.
Fire Departments for Rural Communities. How To Organize and Operate Them, Leaflet 375.
Issued September 1959

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1959 O—514732